

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



## ACADEMIC SENATE

The next meeting (Meeting 21/02) of the Academic Senate of Western Sydney University will be held on **Friday, 16 April 2021 at 9:30AM**, at the following Zoom hubs and via Zoom:

- Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02) (Chair location)
- Campbelltown, Building 22, level 2, room 39 (CA-22.2.39)
- Hawkesbury, Building L2, Ground floor, room 13 (HW-L2.G.13).

The Zoom details for this meeting are: <https://uws.zoom.us/j/495244858>

For apologies and enquiries, please contact Desiree Mulley by email at: [d.mulley@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:d.mulley@westernsydney.edu.au).

## AGENDA

### 1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

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#### ☆1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, will chair the meeting. The Chair will invite Fiona Towney, Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation to open the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Land Owners.

The Chair will welcome all members and attendees, with a specific mention to:

- Welcome to Fiona Towney, Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation.
- Welcome to Professor Michelle Trudgett in her capacity as Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
- Welcome to Professor Adam Possamai, the interim Dean, Graduate Research School.
- Welcome to Associate Professor Matt McGuire in his capacity as Acting Dean, School of Humanities and Communication Arts.
- Welcome to Professor Brian Stout in his capacity as Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.
- Welcome to Matija Burrett who is the newly elected student member representing disability matters.
- Welcome to Naomi Hastings the Postgraduate student member on the Board of Trustees, who is attending as an observer.
- Welcome to Natalia Vukolova the Graduate member on the Board of Trustees, who is attending as an observer.
- Welcome to Lindsay Crump, Director, Future Student Engagement who will present in relation to item 3.4.
- Welcome to Associate Professor Jo-Anne Chuck, Head of Teaching and Curriculum, Learning Futures who will present in relation to item 3.8.

- Welcome to Michelle Hayter-Falconer, Director, Office of Equity and Diversity who will attend in relation to 3.10.2.
- Welcome to Dr. Peter Bansel, Associate Dean (HDR), School of Social Sciences who will attend in relation to item 3.10.2.
- Acknowledge the outgoing undergraduate student member Hollie Hammond whose term on Academic Senate expires on 31 May 2021.

At the time of writing, apologies had been received from: Professor Amir Mahmood and Professor Peter Hutchings.

## ★1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare any interests, in terms of the [Conflict of Interest Policy](#), they may have in relation to the items on this agenda. Further information for members regarding declarations of interest is available on the [Compliance Program Unit webpage](#).

Members are reminded that they should also declare any interests that become apparent during a meeting of Academic Senate or one of its committees.

## ★1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Senate members will be asked which items they wish starred for discussion.

Apart from procedural items, items already starred on the agenda are:

- 3.1 - Report from the Chair
- 3.2 - Report from the Vice-Chancellor
- 3.3 – Student Report
- 3.4 – Australian Defence Force/Veteran Program Pathways
- 3.5 – Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021-2026
- 3.6 - Independent Review of Adoption of the Model Code On Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom
- 3.8 – Summary of The Teaching and Learning Outcomes for Spring/2h 2020 And Summer 2020-21
- 3.9.1 – Online Teaching Evaluations
- 3.10.2 – Gender Equity Strategy Panel Discussion
- 3.11.2 – Third Party Provider Policy
- 3.11.3 - Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – GPA Neutral Scheme.

### **It is recommended:**

*That the documents for all unstarred agenda items be noted and, except where alternative action is noted as appropriate, all recommendations contained in those items be approved.*

## ★1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There may be some re-arrangement of the order of business to enable some members and attendees to attend other meetings.

## ☆1.5 OTHER BUSINESS

Members are invited to nominate other relevant matters, noting that such items will normally be included on the agenda for a future meeting.

## ☆1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AS 21/02-1.6 Page 01

The unconfirmed minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on Friday, 26 February 2021 (Meeting 21/01) have been circulated.

### **It is recommended:**

*That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday, 26 February 2021 (Meeting 21/01), as an accurate record.*

## ☆1.7 ACTION SHEET FROM LAST MEETING AS 21/02-1.7 Page 016

To assist members with monitoring the work of the Academic Senate, an action sheet from the previous meeting has been circulated.

## 2 BUSINESS ARISING

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There is no business arising from previous meetings.

## 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

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### ☆3.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AS 21/02-3.1 Late Paper

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 26 February has been circulated. The Chair will provide an update on any recent developments and will answer any questions in relation to the report. The Chair's report to the 14 April meeting of the Board of Trustees, will be appended to the Chair's report.

**For Discussion.**

### ☆3.2 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AS 21/02-3.2 Page 019

The Vice-Chancellor's Report is appended.

**For Noting.**

### ☆3.3 STUDENT REPORT AS 21/02-3.3 Late paper

A report compiled by the student representatives of Senate will be provided at each meeting of Senate.

**For Noting.**

- ☆3.4 **AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE VETERAN PROGRAM** **AS 21/02-3.4**  
Page 030

Lindsay Crump, Director, Future Student Engagement and Professor James Arvanitakis, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement and Advancement) will present to Senate regarding the Australian Defence Force/Veteran program and Student Veteran Program (SVP) pathways to the University.

**For Discussion.**

- ☆3.5 **SUSTAINING SUCCESS STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026** **AS 21/02-3.5**  
Page 036

The purpose of this item is for members of Senate to discuss the implementation of the *Sustaining Success Strategic Plan 2021-2026*, and its values. Senate members will split into breakout rooms for discussion.

**For Discussion**

- ☆3.6 **INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ADOPTION OF THE MODEL CODE ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM** **AS 21/02-3.6**  
**Late paper**

The purpose of this item is for Senate to review the documentation addressing Professor Sally Walker's review of the adoption of the *Model Code on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom* at the University, and contribute to the formulation of a response.

**For Discussion.**

- 3.7 **SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE VARIATIONS** **AS 21/02-3.7**  
Page 079

The purpose of this item is to seek the ratification of Senate for amendments to the membership of the School Academic Committee and School and Institute Research and Higher Degree Research Committee Terms of Reference that were approved by Senate Executive Committee on Friday, 12 March 2021 (Meeting 21/04).

**It is recommended:**

*That Academic Senate ratifies the amendments to the Terms of Reference and Membership to the following Standing Committees of Senate:*

- a) *School Academic Committee;*
- b) *School/Institute Research and Higher Degree Research Committee.*

### ☆3.8 SUMMARY OF THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR SPRING/2H 2020 AND SUMMER 2020-21

Professor Simon Bedford, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures) and Associate Professor Jo-Anne Chuck, Head of Teaching and Curriculum will present to Senate in relation to teaching and learning outcomes for spring/2h 2020 and summer 2020-21.

**For Noting.**

### 3.9 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice are a tool that academics from across the University can use to engage with Senate. Questions must be sent to the Chair and the Secretary at least two weeks prior to Senate and must fit within the scope of the [Terms of Reference](#) of Senate. All questions that fit this criterion will be answered, it is up to the discretion of the Chair if questions will be tabled at Senate. No Questions on Notice have been received.

#### ☆3.9.1 Online Teaching Evaluations

The purpose of this item is to advise of the outcome of the Student Feedback on Teaching (SFT) and Student Feedback on Unit (SFU) data in classes with fewer than five students matter that was raised in 2020.

**For Information.**

### 3.10 HOT TOPICS

In response to the Senate Review Report recommendations, Senate members have the opportunity to submit a 'Hot Topic' for discussion prior to each meeting of Senate.

#### 3.10.1 – Fitness to Practice Working Group

**AS 21/02-3.10.1**

**Late paper**

The purpose of this paper is to provide Senate with an update on the status of the *Safe to Practice Policy* and the *Inherent Requirements Policy*.

**For Noting.**

#### ☆3.10.2—Gender Equity Strategy Panel Discussion

The purpose of this item is for Professor Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President (Research, Enterprise & International), Michelle Hayter-Falconer, Director, Office of Equity and Diversity, Peter Bansel, Associate Dean (HDR), School of Social Sciences and Hollie Hammond, Undergraduate student member to discuss the University's Gender Equity Strategy and how the University will approach/address what we understand to be the gendered impact of COVID-19 on women.

**For Discussion.**

### **3.11 POLICY REVIEW**

#### **3.11.1 Policy Review Update**

**AS 21/02-3.11.1**  
Page 090

The purpose of this item is to notify Senate of the proposed policies to be prioritised for 2021 for consideration and progress by the Academic Senate Policy Committee.

**For Noting.**

#### **☆3.11.2 Third Party Provider Policy**

**AS 21/02-3.11.2**  
**Late Paper**

The purpose of this paper is to seek the approval of Senate for the Third Party Provider Policy.

**It is recommended:**

*That Academic Senate approves the proposed Third Party Provider Policy from the date of approval.*

#### **☆3.11.3 Policy Variations in Response to COVID-19 – GPA Neutral Scheme**

**AS 21/02-3.11.3**  
Page 095

The purpose of this paper is to seek Senate's ratification for an extension to clause 14 of the *Graduation Policy* and Clauses 34 and 35 of the *Assessment Policy: Criteria and Standards Based Assessment*, until 24 July 2021. The effect of this extension is to continue the GPA Neutral Scheme for all of Autumn session.

**It is recommended:**

*That Academic Senate ratifies the policy variation to clause 14 of the Graduation Policy and Clauses 34 and 35 of the Assessment Policy: Criteria and Standards Based Assessment, until 24 July 2021.*

### **3.12 POSTHUMOUS AWARDS**

The *Posthumous Awards and Aegrotat Grades Policy* states that Academic Senate and Senate Assessment Committee should be notified of the rationale and decision to approve a Posthumous award. There are no posthumous awards to note at this meeting.

### **3.13 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### **3.13.1 Donor Funded Scholarships (Group B)**

**AS 21/02-3.13.1**  
Page 097

Academic Senate is requested to consider the following proposal for four new donor funded scholarships, prepared by the Office of Advancement:

- GPT First Nations Scholarship
- Tenantscs Property Scholarship
- Better Rehab Occupational Therapy Scholarship - First Year
- Better Rehab Occupational Therapy Scholarship - Final Year.

**It is recommended:**

*That Academic Senate approves the proposed new Donor funded scholarships:*

- *GPT First Nations Scholarship*
- *Tenantscs Property Scholarship*
- *Better Rehab Occupational Therapy Scholarship - First Year*
- *Better Rehab Occupational Therapy Scholarship - Final Year.*

### **3.14 AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL**

**The attachment for this item has been omitted as it includes student identifying information.**

The purpose of this paper is to advise Academic Senate of students who have been awarded a University Medal, as approved by the Chair of Academic Senate on behalf of Senate.

**It is recommended:**

*That Academic Senate notes the awarding of the University Medal to students listed in attachment 1 of item 3.14 Awards of the University Medal.*

## **4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

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Items 4.1 – 4.9 provide an overview of the matters dealt with by Senate standing committees.

### **4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**AS 21/02-4.1**  
Page 102

Senate Executive Committee conducted the following meetings:

- Friday, 12 March 2021 (Meeting 21/04); and
- Monday, 15 March to Tuesday, 16 March (21/05).

The minutes of these meetings have been circulated.

**For Noting.**

### **4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**AS 21/02-4.2**  
Page 108

The Research Committee met on Monday, 8 February 2021, the minutes have been circulated.

**For Noting.**

### **4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE**

**AS 21/02-4.3**  
Page 115

The Research Studies Committee met on Tuesday, 9 March 2021. The minutes have been circulated. The minutes of the Tuesday, 13 April meeting will be circulated at the next meeting.

**For Noting.**

**4.4 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**AS 21/02-4.4**  
Page 123

Senate Education Committee met on Thursday, 11 March 2021. The minutes have been circulated.

**For Noting.**

**4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE**

**AS 21/02-4.5**  
**Late paper**

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) met on Tuesday, 2 March 2021 (meeting 21/03) and Thursday, 8 April 2021 (meeting 21/04). A circular resolution was held between 10 March -11 March 2021 (Circular 21/02).

**It is recommended:**

*That Academic Senate notes the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 2 March 2021 (meeting 21/03) and Thursday, 8 April 2021 (meeting 21/04) and the circular resolution 21/02 held between 10 March – 11 March 2021 and approves the recommendations contained therein.*

**4.6 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

**AS 21/02-4.6**  
Page 134

The Senate Assessment Committee met on Tuesday, 23 February 2021 (meeting 21/01). The unconfirmed minutes have been circulated.

**For Noting.**

**4.7 THE COLLEGE ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

**AS 21/02-4.7**  
Page 143

The College Academic Pathway Program Committee met on 11 February 2021 (meeting 21/02). The minutes have been circulated.

**For Noting.**

**4.8 ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE**

**AS 21/02-4.8**  
Page 150

The Academic Senate Policy Committee (ASPC) met on Wednesday, 3 March 2021. The minutes have been circulated.

**For Noting.**

## 4.9 2020 ANNUAL REPORTS

AS 21/02-4.9

The purpose of this item is for Senate to ensure that all Standing Committees of Academic Senate are carrying out their functions in accordance with their Terms of Reference. Reports that were not available at meeting 21/01 are listed below.

4.9.1	School of Law	Late paper
4.9.2	Research Committee	Page 156

**For Discussion and Noting.**

## 4.10 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 9 June 2021. Summaries and minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings are available on the University website at:

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about\\_uws/leadership/board\\_of\\_trustees/board\\_meetings](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about_uws/leadership/board_of_trustees/board_meetings)

## 5 FOR INFORMATION

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No items.

## 6 NEXT MEETING

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The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for Friday, 18 June 2021. Details regarding location will be advised closer to the meeting date.

Meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:

- 18 June
- 13 August
- 15 October
- 10 December.

Meetings commence at 9:30AM and conclude by 12:30PM.